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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 314
By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Marvin McKnight and Joe "Nip" McKnight on being inducted into the Jackson-Madison County Sports Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is proud to specially recognize citizens of our state whose athletic accomplishments can only be described as "legendary"; and

WHEREAS, Marvin McKnight's stellar collegiate career at the University of Tennessee Junior College in Martin (Moody Institute until 1927) from 1926-1928 included participation in three sports, basketball, football and baseball; and

WHEREAS, as a result of his many athletic accomplishments, he was recently named a member of the Jackson-Madison County Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McKnight and seven other persons made up the school's first basketball team; and

WHEREAS, he expertly captained the fabled 1927-1928 basketball team that posted an exemplary 21-4 record and won the coveted Mississippi Valley Conference Tournament; and

WHEREAS, during this banner season, he averaged an awesome 18 points per game, setting a school record that lasted until his son, former Senator Joe "Nip" McKnight, averaged 24.33 points per game playing for the University of Tennessee at Martin; and

WHEREAS, Marvin McKnight is a distinguished graduate of the former Malesus High School; and

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WHEREAS, he worked at the Bemis YMCA and played basketball there before becoming postmaster at Bemis, a post in which he performed admirably for 27 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McKnight was previously honored by his induction into the Tennessee Martin Athletic Hall of Fame in 1984; and

WHEREAS, his son and our distinguished former colleague, Senator Joe “Nip” McKnight, was also specially honored by his recent induction into the Jackson-Madison County Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, “Nip” first gained prominence in the athletic world as a star basketball player for J. B. Young High School, where he averaged an enviable 29.8 points per game during his senior year. He also played on the school’s first football team; and

WHEREAS, as a result of his outstanding high school hoops career, he was quickly signed to a full basketball scholarship by the University of Memphis and he served admirably as co-captain of the team his sophomore season, exhibiting the excellent leadership qualities with which we later became familiar during his meritorious service in the state legislature; and

WHEREAS, he transferred to the University of Tennessee at Martin for his final two years of eligibility and scored a phenomenal 783 total points; and

WHEREAS, during his first year at Martin, he broke his father’s single season school points record by scoring more than 400 points; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from college, “Nip” expertly coached the Martin High School basketball team for two years, taking his teams to the State Tournament each year; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to honor Marvin McKnight and Senator Joe “Nip” McKnight, reflecting fondly on their brilliant high school and college athletic careers; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Marvin McKnight and Senator Joe “Nip”

McKnight on being inducted into the Jackson-Madison County Sports Hall of Fame and wish them well in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause deleted from such copies.